

MRS. ANNIE M. CLEMENS.

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JANUARY 11, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. MOZLEY, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 3692.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3692) granting a pension to Mrs. Annie M. Clemens, have considered the same and report:

The claimant is the widow of George Clemens, late a private of Company H, Tenth United States Cavalry. He was discharged from the service September 16, 1870, because of blindness originating in the line of duty, and at the time of his death, which occurred January 20, 1891, he was receiving a pension of \$72 per month for total blindness.

The widow's application has been rejected by the Pension Bureau on the ground that epithelioma, the cause of the soldier's death, was not due to the disease of eyes nor otherwise shown to be due to service. An appeal was taken to the Secretary of the Interior, but that official declined to set aside the rejection, it being held that the opinion of the medical referee upon the medical questions involved should be sustained.

The testimony of Dr. H. H. Mudd, a prominent physician of St. Louis, Mo., is as follows:

That he attended the soldier for epithelioma of orbit and nose in the year 1890 in the months of September, October, November, and December. At the time he commenced observation there was a tumor involving the minor canthus of right eye. The bone was involved so the nose, the frontal sinus, and the orbit right side communicated and were part of diseased mass. The globe of the eye was involved also. He (soldier) had suffered for many years with neuralgia, pain in, and more or less persistent soreness of the eye. The eyes presented evidence of old chronic inflammation and may have accounted for the development of the epithelioma. There is no more positive evidence of the origin of the disease of which he died. It is impossible to show direct origin of such a growth.

The claimant is in feeble health and stands in much need of the pension.

Your committee believe that the doubts in this case may very properly and justly be resolved in the claimant's favor and the passage of the bill is therefore recommended.